



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks


Region One
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Ref:DV220-00
August 24, 2000

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Bldg., PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Director's Office – Rich Clough
Fisheries Division – Dorothy Lindsay
Design & Construction – Dick Mayer
Legal Unit
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena, 59620-1201
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715
Rep. Aubyn Curtiss, PO Box 216, Fortine, 59918-0216
Rep. Scott Orr, PO Box 1318, Libby, 59923-1318
Sen. William Crismore, 237 Airfield Rd. S, Libby, 59923
Rep. Rob Raney, 212 S. 6th, Livingston, 59047
Lincoln County Library, 220 W 6th, Libby, 59923
Lincoln County Library, PO Box 401, Eureka, 59917
Lincoln County Library, 207 N 3rd, Troy, 59935
Lincoln County Commissioners, 512 California Ave., Libby, 59923

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the O'Brien Creek water works project. During a 15-day comment period in July 2000, no comments were received. Therefore, the draft EA becomes the final EA. A copy of the Decision Document is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,


Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

DV/nli
Enclosure

Lincoln

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DECISION NOTICE FOR
O'Brien Creek Water Works Project
August 16, 2000**

Project proposal:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) will:

- 1: Assist the City of Troy in stabilizing the point of diversion (P.O.D.) into their secondary city water supply from O'Brien Creek. We will provide water flow into the historic water cistern by moving the P.O.D. upstream approximately 490 feet, and will bury a 490 foot 10 inch diameter plastic pipe at a 3% gradient.
- 2: Construct stream channel grade control structures in O'Brien Creek to stabilize the head-cut created from the deteriorated log water diversion dam.
- 3: Replace the current deteriorated water cistern outlet pipe screen with a new ¼ inch screen, preventing fish from entering the water system from O'Brien Creek.

Site Location and Biological Characteristics

This project will be conducted on O'Brien Creek, which is located at the outskirts of Troy, Montana, Lincoln County, within T33N, R31W, Sec17, NW¼.

Project Justification

Bonneville Power Administration has contracted with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to research and mitigate for losses of fisheries, aquatic insects, and aquatic habitat attributable to the construction and operation of Libby Dam. We accomplish fisheries enhancement through a combination of non-operational and operational mitigation and evaluation/monitoring.

Environmental Impacts of Project

No adverse effects are anticipated to plants, adult amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals. Most migratory birds have left by late October and will not be affected.

Social Impacts of Project

This project will assure that the city of Troy will maintain water flow into the historic water system. Troy intends to use this water for future recreational sites near the city, such as irrigating ball fields and creating a fishing pond (partnership with MFWP).

Public Involvement

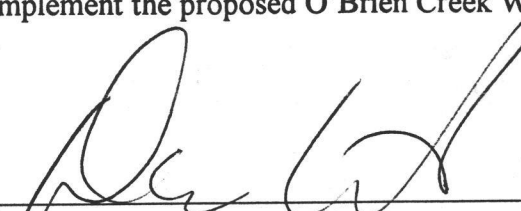
An EA was submitted for internal review by FWP in July 21, 2000. Public comment was initiated on 21 July, and ended on 5 August, 2000. Public involvement included a notice to local newspapers and

distribution of the Draft Environmental Assessment to involved and interested parties for a 15- day comment period.

No written comments were received in response to news releases during the comment period. The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted about the project and recommended a reconnaissance survey be conducted to determine if archeological sites exist or will be impacted by the project. A trained archeologist will conduct a survey prior to project implementation.

Decision Notice

Based on the comments and agreements reached through explanation of our plans, I recommend that we implement the proposed O'Brien Creek Water Works Project with the City Troy.



Dan Vincent, Regional Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One

8/21/00

Date